

## Message Text

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ORIGIN ACDA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-07 IO-13 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05  
SS-15 CIAE-00 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 PRS-01  
SP-02 USIA-06 TRSE-00 DODE-00 /087 R

DRAFTED BY ACDA/IR:RHARKAVY:SHC  
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PM:PCLAPP(SUBS)  
NSC:RKIMMITT  
ACDA/IR:MHUMPHREYS  
S/S:PSEBASTIAN

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R 282349Z MAR 77  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMEMBASSY LONDON  
INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS  
AMEMBASSY BONN  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
AMEMBASSY TOKYO  
USMISSION NATO  
USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 068955

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS:PARM, NATO

SUBJECT:US/UK BILATERALS ON ARMS CONTROL: CONVENTIONAL  
ARMS TRANSFERS

1. SUMMARY: ON MARCH 14-15, BRITISH DELEGATION HEADED BY  
J. EDMONDS VISITED ACDA FOR CONSULTATIONS ON ARMS CONTROL  
ISSUES AND DISCUSSED CONVENTIONAL ARMS TRANSFER MATTERS  
WITH US TEAM HEADED BY R. ERICSON (PM) AND INCLUDING REPRESENTATIVES OF ACDA AND NSC. DISCUSSION COVERED THE PROGRESS  
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OF THE USG INTERNAL REVIEW OF ARMS TRANSFER POLICIES, THE  
POSSIBILITIES AND MODALITIES OF MULTILATERAL ARMS CONTROL  
ARRANGEMENTS INVOLVING NATO AND THE USSR, INITIATIVES  
THROUGH THE UN, AND SPECIFICALLY POSSIBLE CONTROLS ON  
MANPADS. THE BRITISH EXPRESSED AGREEMENT IN PRINCIPLE WITH  
US AIMS, URGED THAT WE TAKE THE LEAD, AND INDICATED THEY  
WOULD SUPPORT OUR STATEMENTS IN PUBLIC, THE UN, AND IN

DISCUSSIONS WITH OTHER SUPPLIERS. OTHER ISSUES DISCUSSED  
REPORTED SEPTELS. END SUMMARY.

2. INTERNAL USG POLICY REVIEW: THE USG TEAM OUTLINED THE  
PROGRESS AND CONTENTS OF THE ONGOING STUDY ON ARMS TRANSFER  
POLICY, EMPHASIZING THAT THE NEW ADMINISTRATION IS COMMITTED  
TO RESTRAINT IN THIS AREA. WE WILL ESTABLISH NEW DOMESTIC  
POLICY GUIDELINES BEFORE EMBARKING ON SERIOUS DISCUSSIONS

WITH OTHERS, ALTHOUGH THE SUBJECT WAS RAISED BY V.P.  
MONDALE IN JANUARY TRIP AND IS AGAIN TO BE RAISED BY  
SEC. VANCE ON HIS FORTHCOMING TRIP.

3. MULTILATERAL CONTROL POSSIBILITIES: BRITISH INDICATED  
GENERAL AGREEMENT IN PRINCIPLE WITH OUR AIMS, THOUGH ALSO  
NOTING SUBJECT WAS NOT DISCUSSED AT LENGTH DURING CALLAGHAN  
VISIT. THEY INDICATED VIEW THAT US, AS WORLD'S LEADING  
ARMS SUPPLIER, SHOULD TAKE LEAD IN INITIATING DISCUSSIONS  
ON CONTROLS. THEIR VIEW IS THAT SOVIETS WILL HAVE TO BE  
BROUGHT INTO DISCUSSIONS, BUT ARE PESSIMISTIC ABOUT SOVIET  
RESPONSE, URGING NEVERTHELESS THAT SEC. VANCE BROACH MATTER  
IN MOSCOW. THEY ALSO NOTED OBVIOUS PROBLEM OF BRINGING  
FRENCH ABOARD, THE DISCRIMINATION ISSUE AS PERCEIVED BY  
DEVELOPING COUNTRIES LACKING INDIGENOUS ARMS PRODUCTION,  
AND THE NECESSITY FOR A REGIONAL APPROACH TO CONTROLS. THE  
BRITISH WERE FRANK IN POINTING OUT ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL  
PROBLEMS INVOLVED.

THE UTILITY OF THE UN AS A FORUM FOR DISCUSSION AND NEGOTIATION  
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TIATION OF CONTROL ARRANGEMENTS WAS DISCUSSED WITH SPECIFIC  
REFERENCE TO THE JAPANESE INITIATIVES. BRITISH CONSIDER  
JAPAN AN APPROPRIATE PACESETTER, INDICATED JAPANESE WILL  
HAVE TO DO MORE INITIAL SPADEWORK WITH THIRD WORLD IN THE  
FUTURE, AND AGREED TO KEEP US INFORMED ON THE JAPANESE  
INITIATIVE. AN ALTERNATIVE BELGIAN APPROACH AND A YUGOSLAV  
POSITION ON BEHALF OF NON-ALIGNED NATIONS WERE ALSO  
MENTIONED. DISCUSSION OF APPROPRIATE DATA ON ARMS TRANSFERS  
INCLUDED BRITISH NOTING THEY RELY ON ACDA'S WMEAT AND US  
NOTING THE VALUE OF IISS PUBLICATIONS.

4. THE TWO WAY STREET, STANDARDIZATION, ECONOMIC PROBLEMS:  
BRITISH POINTED OUT THAT A MORE BALANCED TWO-WAY ARMS  
SUPPLY TRAFFIC BETWEEN US AND W. EUROPE WOULD REDUCE LATTER'S  
NEED FOR THIRD WORLD MARKETS OUTSIDE OF NATO, ALSO INDICATING  
THIS MATTER OUGHT NOT BE ADVERTISED. THEY REPORTED FRENCH  
PESSIMISM REGARDING US WILLINGNESS TO ALLOW DEGRADATION OF  
US INDEPENDENT ARMS PRODUCTION BASE IMPLIED IN MORE MEANINGFUL  
TWO-WAY STREET.

REGARDING SEC. VANCE TRIP TO MOSCOW, US REPS INDICATED DISCUSSIONS ON ARMS TRANSFERS WOULD BE AT VERY GENERAL LEVEL. BRITISH ASSUMED THAT SALT AND MBFR WOULD TAKE PRECEDENCE, AND VOICED CONCERN ABOUT DIFFICULTIES WHICH MIGHT BE CAUSED BY PRESENT STRAINED US-SOVIET ATMOSPHERE.

THE UK BELIEVES THE WEST CAN REACH AN AGREED POSITION FOR SSOD, THOUGH DOUBTFUL WE CAN GET AGREEMENT WITH THE SOVIETS AND E. EUROPEANS.

THE BRITISH DESIRE FURTHER CONSULTATIONS ON ARMS TRANSFERS BEFORE THE FORTHCOMING NATO DISARMAMENT EXPERTS' MEETING THIS SPRING.

5. MANPAD CONTROLS: BRITISH WERE QUERIED CONCERNING THEIR PROGRESS TOWARD RESTRAINTS ON MANPAD EXPORTS TO LDCS, WHICH CONFIDENTIAL

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THEY PROPOSED IN 1975 AS JOINT US-UK INITIATIVE TO SWEDEN AND USSR (ONLY SUPPLIERS). BRITISH NOTED THEY OBTAINED FAVORABLE REACTION FROM SWEDES BUT HAVE NOT DISCUSSED MATTER WITH USSR. THEY ARE SKEPTICAL ABOUT SOVIET COOPERATION. US REPS INDICATED POSSIBLE INTEREST IN TAKING ANOTHER LOOK AT THIS. THOUGH GENERALLY SUPPORTIVE, BRITISH POINTED OUT RESTRAINT POLICY MAY BE DIFFICULT TO MAINTAIN IN UK BECAUSE THEIR MANPADS MORE CUMBERSOME, HENCE LESS USEFUL TO TERRORISTS, THAN SOVIET SA-7 AND US REDEYE. CHRISTOPHER

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## Message Attributes

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